

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE
EXECUTIVE**

04 March 2011

Dear Councillor

EXECUTIVE - Tuesday 15 March 2011

Please find attached the following reports for the above meeting that was marked as being 'to follow' on the main Agenda:-

15. Proposals for Services to Schools

To consider revised charges for school support services.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Sandra Hobbs, Committee Services Officer on Tel: 0300 300 5257.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Hobbs
Committee Services Officer
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Meeting: Executive

Date: 15 March 2010

Subject: Services to Schools 2011/12

Report of: Councillor Maurice Jones, Portfolio Holder for Finance,
Governance & People

Summary: This report seeks the Executive's approval of the Services to Schools price list for the period 2011/12, together with the underpinning principle of full cost recovery of these services.

Advising Officer: Richard Ellis, Director of Customer and Shared Services

Contact Officer: Bernard Carter, Overview & Scrutiny Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Executive

Key Decision No

**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in** N/A
(if appropriate)

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

This issue relates to the Council's priority to educate, protect and provide opportunities for children and young people.

Financial:

The Council's approved revenue budget for 2011/12 is predicated on the organisation achieving an income optimisation target of £1.5M. This initiative will raise circa £0.5m per annum (subject to take up), which would not only make a significant contribution to this target but would also recover the full cost of service provision.

Legal:

None, these "traded" services are discretionary and schools are free to choose alternative providers.

Risk Management:

Potential risk of attrition in take up rates over time. The Customer & Shared Services directorate in particular will need to monitor the issue closely and manage resources accordingly.

The Council's reputation and relationship with schools may also be affected by these charges. It is therefore important that our relationship and communications with governors and head teachers continues to be managed proactively.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

Should attrition rates be significant, there will be a need for further service level efficiencies in order to realign resources to income generated.

Equalities/Human Rights:

Under the terms of equality legislation, when developing proposals and making policy decisions public authorities must ensure that decisions are made in such a way as to minimise unfairness, and they do not have a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people and men and women.

Community Safety:

None.

Sustainability:

None.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:

- The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the issue of traded services to schools at its meeting on 25 January 2011. The Committee acknowledged the challenges the Council was facing regarding provision of services to schools and endorsed the principle of full cost recovery.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **that the Executive confirms the principle of full cost recovery regarding the provision of discretionary traded services to schools;**
2. **that the Executive approves the Services to Schools price list for the period 2011/12, attached at Appendix A.**

<i>Reason for Recommendation:</i>	<i>So that the Council is clear regarding its recovery of costs policy and has approved the related Services to Schools price list for the period 2011/12.</i>
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Executive Summary

The principles, costs and charges relating to the Council's "traded" services offer to schools has recently been the subject of a comprehensive review and as a result, this report sets out a proposed charging philosophy and pricing structure for 2011/12.

Background

1. The current economic climate and pressure on public finances has required all public sector bodies, including local authorities, to look carefully at their spending and identify the true cost of providing individual services. This requirement, together with the increasing independence of schools (e.g. Academies & Free Schools) and potential decline in demand for school support services, has prompted a comprehensive review of the Council's "traded" offer to Central Bedfordshire schools.
2. The rationale behind this comprehensive review has been informed by the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who in acknowledging the financial challenges the Council was facing generally, endorsed the principle of full cost recovery with regard to the provision of services to schools. It was the Committee's view that the Council (and in effect critical front line services) should not subsidise the costs associated with the provision of discretionary traded services to schools.
3. A review of discretionary traded services has been conducted to provide a comprehensive analysis of costs, and to make recommendations on the level of pricing required for each service in order to reflect full cost recovery. This work was undertaken with the support of officers in Finance and has led to the creation of a revised Services to Schools price list for the period 2011/12, which is attached at Appendix A. The price list clearly shows for every service listed the percentage increase in charges and where appropriate and fully justified, also includes differential charges for Academies.

Issues

4. Whilst some services have been covering their costs through the income received from schools, there are a number of services which represent a significant cost to the authority. A couple of examples are outlined below, where a significant adjustment will be required:-

Payroll:

- Current charge per payslip £3.20
- Current cost to CBC £4.30
- CBC currently losing £118k pa
- Proposed charge per payslip £4.30
- An increase of c. 34% based upon current volumes

Human Resources:

- Full Cost of Service £740,000
- Currently recovering only £370,000
- CBC currently losing £370k
- An increase of 100% will therefore be required to recover costs, based upon current volumes

Bursary Service:

- Full Cost of Service £752,000
- Currently recovering only £716,000
- An increase of 5% will therefore be required to recover costs, based upon current volumes

Consultation

5. In order to assess the impact any revised charges would have on individual schools, the proposed price list was presented to School Governors at the School Governors Forum on 16 February 2011. Both the Deputy Leader and Director of Customer & Shared Services explained the context and rationale behind the increase in charges and encouraged attendees to submit any concerns via our feedback mechanism. The feedback received to date is attached at Appendix B.
6. A number of the comments received from this event suggested that some schools were concerned about the lack of time available to source alternative suppliers, if they were minded to do so and the lack of capacity and skills to undertake such a task. Officers will therefore seek to devise an appropriate support package in order to help schools either deliver services themselves or source externally.

Financial and Other Implications

7. Central Bedfordshire Council's Revenue Budget for 2011/12 was approved by Full Council on 24 February 2011, and included an increased income contribution of £1.5m. The implementation of the proposed charges for School Support Services will contribute circa £0.5m to this target (albeit acknowledging that there is a risk service take up and hence revenue may reduce slightly).
8. Additionally, there may well be some financial impact on schools as a result of the implementation of these proposed charges. It should be noted however that schools can choose alternative providers for such services.

Conclusion

9. The current economic climate and the pressure on public finances demand that all local authorities review their priorities and costs to ensure limited resources are used to best effect, targeted to those with greatest need and support critical and statutory front line services. The principle of full cost recovery regarding the provision of discretionary traded services is therefore compelling and would result in the Council eliminating its subsidy to schools. The Executive is therefore asked to endorse the principle of full cost recovery and approve the Services to Schools price list attached at Appendix A.

10. It is proposed that the revised pricing will be introduced from the 1 April 2011. The resultant increases, along with a number of schools becoming Academies/Free Schools, may have an impact on the take up of these services. Once this has been assessed and a new base volume established, services will need to review existing resources to ensure costs are re-aligned to the new demand levels.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Services to Schools Price List

Appendix B – Feedback from Headteachers and School Governors

Background Papers: (not applicable)

Location of papers: (not applicable)

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Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Services to Schools 2011/2012

Services available to schools for purchase

Published February 2011

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
School Business Services:			
Training Courses			
Courses include the use of RM Finance for Beginners 1, 2 and 3; Cash Office 1 and 2; fully funded accounting; capital accounting / formula capital; Financial planning for schools – navigation / workshop (FPSadvance.net); consistent financial reporting workshop; RM Finance end year procedures (fully funded schools)	£111 (half day) £195 (full day)	£120 (half day) £205 (full day)	5%
Finance Software & Support			
FPSadvance.net	£565	£595	5%
FPSadvance.net – One-Off Licence Fee	£495	£565	14.14%
RM Finance – Basic Package	£425 (Other Sectors) £495 (Upper Schools)	£450 (Other Sectors) £520 (Upper Schools)	5%
RM Finance – Superior Package	£570 (Other Sectors only)	£600 (Other Sectors only)	5%
Integriss Finance	£550 (Primary) £970 (Secondary)	£580 (Primary) £1020 (Secondary)	5%
Integriss Finance Annual Hosting	£350	£350	No change
Integriss G2	£650 (<101) £760 (101 – 200) £825 (201 – 300) £880 (>300)	£685 (<101) £800 (101 – 200) £870 (201 – 300) £925 (>300)	5%
Integriss G2 Annual Hosting	£495	£520	5%
Integriss G2 - One-off Licence	£350 (<101) £450 (101 – 200) £550 (201 – 300) £650 (<300)	n/a	n/a

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
Integris G2 - Migration Fee	£245 (<101) £295 (101 – 200) £345 (201 – 300) £420 (<300)	n/a	n/a
Schools Cash Office	£400 (All Sectors)	£420 (All Sectors)	5%
Schools Cash Office - One-off Licence Fee	£275 (Other Sectors) £875 (Upper Schools)	Tba Tba	Tba tba
Datafile Correction (due to user error)	£39 per hour	£41 per hour	5%
Supplement for networks of 3 or more computers	£10 per module	£11 per module	5%
Bursary Service			
Provides financial support and specialist consulting to schools. Services include day-to-day finance, financial management and a range of other services.	£7750 (144hrs pa) £4100 (72hrs pa) £3540 (60hrs pa) £2935 (48hrs pa) £2275 (36hrs pa) £1570 (24hrs pa) £800 (12hrs pa)	£8140 (144hrs pa) £4305 (72hrs pa) £3720 (60hrs pa) £3085 (48hrs pa) £2390 (36hrs pa) £1650 (24hrs pa) £840 (12hrs pa)	5%
Ad-hoc Bursary Service	£79 per hour	£85 per hour	5%
Ad-hoc Bursary Service (Charge for Academies)	n/a	£160 per hour	n/a
In-house Bursary Work	£39 per hour	£45 per hour	5%

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<p>LTA/ Maternity Pool</p> <p>The scheme collects a premium to pay for claims against long term absence for sickness and maternity leave. Recompense rates for 2011/12 will be determined by the Headteacher Panel</p> <p>Subscriptions Buy Back</p> <p>CBC holds various licences centrally relating to musical copyright and the overview of public performance however some activities are not covered. This buy back service provides full cover for licences such as Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL), Performing Rights Society (PRS), Education Recording Agency (ERA), Copyright Licensing Authority (CLA), School Science Services (CLEAPSS) & Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI).</p>	<p>£20 (per pupil Lower & Nursery) plus a 2.8% admin charge</p> <p>£15 (per pupil Middle) plus a 4.5% admin charge</p> <p>Based on actual licence costs plus a small admin charge</p>	<p>£24.50 (per pupil Lower & Nursery) plus a 3.2% admin charge</p> <p>tba</p> <p>Based on actual licence costs plus a small admin charge</p>	<p>22.5% (rounded up to nearest £5)</p> <p>No change</p>
<p>Safehands: Insurance Scheme</p> <p>Safehands is an insurance scheme which includes buy back (property and liability) and optional insurance cover, together with a Legal Helpline</p>	<p>The charge will be equivalent to the amount most schools receive in their delegated budget for 'insurance'</p>	<p>The charge will be equivalent to the amount most schools receive in their delegated budget for 'insurance'</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Payroll Services to Schools</p> <p>Central Beds provides a payroll service in partnership with SERCO. The service includes producing the school's payrolls, producing end of year returns arising from payroll payments to staff and customer support services (Additional charges for Emergency Payments: CHAPS £75, BACS £35)</p>	<p>£3.20 per payslip</p>	<p>£4.30 per payslip</p>	<p>34%</p>
<p>HR Services to schools</p> <p>The core service packages offered in 2010/11 by this service included contracts of employment; payroll notification; advisory service on all employee relations matters; Headteacher appointments and recruitment advertising including NQTs. 2010/11 package costs were:</p>			

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
Full Buy Back: Core Services	£415 per school plus £7.58 per pupil	A different package for 2011/12 has been determined based primarily on employee numbers (rather than pupil numbers) so there is no direct comparison (see next page)	See note left
Purchase by Package:-			
Contracts of Employment	£134.64 per school plus £2.67 per pupil		
Payroll Notification	£49.36 per school plus £1.05 per pupil		
Advisory Service	£146.98 per school plus £2.93 per pupil		
Headteacher Appointments	£1554 (Lower, Nursery, Special) £2132 (Middle) £2816 (Upper)		
Recruitment	£80 per advertisement plus cost of advert		
CRB & ISA	CRB application charge (£36) plus £18 admin fee		
HEART Recruitment Supply Agency	£18.35 daily booking fee £510 temp to perm introductory fee		
Consultancy Services	£290 (half day) £530 (full day)		

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<p>Service Support</p> <p>Quality assurance of all payroll paperwork and liaison with relevant payroll provider to ensure records are accurate and up to date. Production of terms and conditions of employment and changes to contractual terms (copies provided to the school electronically), CRB advice and guidance, recruitment advice and advert quality assurance, discounted media rates for adverts through the Council wide contract, access to NQT pool etc. access to standard policies and templates (charged separately – recruitment advertising & design costs, and CRB application fee)</p>	<p>The package for 2010/11 was based primarily on pupil numbers (rather than employee numbers) so there is no direct comparison (see previous page)</p>	<p>£23 per employee Plus £10 (Pre Employment Questionnaires) £20 (admin fee per CRB)</p>	<p>See note left</p>
<p>Advisory Service</p> <p>Professional support and advice on all employee relations matters including pay, discipline, grievance, capability, safeguarding, conditions of service and local agreements. Access to policies which are kept up to date with national and legislative changes and good practice. In addition, the team work closely with Trade Union and Professional Association colleagues and meet regularly to agree and discuss policies and procedures for schools based staff.</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>£55 per employee (additional premium for out of hours meetings based on attendees hourly rate)</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Full Buy Back (Service Support & Advisory Service)</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>£75 per employee (additional premium for out of hours meetings based on attendees hourly rate)</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Health & Safety</p> <p>A significant part of these duties are statutory, and the process of assessing what could be classed as a chargeable activity is complex and time consuming. There is a clear requirement to audit sites and to investigate serious incidents.</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>£75 per hour (consultancy charge)</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Consultancy Services</p> <p>Training: We can provide training support materials, access to courses, commissioning of courses and delivering of courses, including safer recruitment tailored to your specific needs.</p> <p>Headship recruitment: This includes facilitation of the process, time tabling, preparation of advertisements (direct cost of advert passed to school), assistance with short listing and interviews and assistance with selection testing.</p> <p>Organisational Change: advice, guidance and support through all organisation change including restructuring, redundancy management, and TUPE consultation.</p>	<p>See above See above See above</p>	<p>Bespoke £85 per hour £85 per hour</p>	<p>See above See above See above</p>

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<p>Academies</p> <p>The above packages can be purchased by Academies but will be charged at a higher premium (20%) as they will have their own contract templates, policies, procedures etc, which makes service delivery more specific and complex.</p> <p>Statutory Workforce Returns: ASR</p> <p>SWF Collect</p> <p>In addition, a full Health & Safety service can be offered to Academies under a Service Level Agreement at a cost of:</p> <p>Core Services: Nurseries (not school managed), Lower, Middle & Upper</p> <p>Consultancy "Pay as you go"</p> <p>For schools without an SLA, one off/specific services can be bought at a rate of:</p>	<p>See above</p> <p>See above</p> <p>See above</p>	<p>20% premium</p> <p>£75 (if payroll purchased) £105 (if payroll not purchased)</p> <p>£75 (if payroll purchased) £105 (if payroll not purchased)</p> <p>£1000 lump sum + £1.75 per pupil</p> <p>£75 per hour £275 half day £550 full day</p> <p>£100 per hour £325 half day £600 full day</p>	<p>See above</p> <p>See above</p> <p>See above</p>
<p>Schools ICT services</p> <p>CBC has previously provided a range of services available to schools on demand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-Learning Consultancy • ICT Coordinators meetings termly • Returning Teachers • IWB training • SEN ICT assessments • International ICT Teaching and Learning consultancy • Training for Assessment & Behaviour Packages • G2 MIS Training (Pupil Data, Staff data, SWF Census, School Census) 	<p>No charge</p>	<p>Universal service withdrawn apart from statutory provision.</p> <p>£475 per day (should schools wish to purchase services on an ad-hoc basis)</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Year Profile training • Aspire Training (to be dropped Jan 2011) • Data Management consultancy 			
<p>Schools Network</p> <p>The schools network includes the Schools Broadband Service, which is recharged at full cost recovery plus a 5% management fee. The charges indicated for 2011/12 reflect the loss of Harnessing Technology Grant that subsidised the service in 2010/11 by approximately 40%.</p> <p>The service includes:</p> <p>Uncontended (not shared) bandwidth Access to E2bn services Membership of E2bn Filtering to approved standards Access to curriculum resources (inc paid for services i.e. British Pathé) Legal Backup Access to the NEN Strategic lead for future services i.e. SSO/SIF Annual conference Access to framework contracts (i.e. Learning Platform) Contribution to network core rental costs Anti virus for all computers in school AVCO (Secure Data Transfer) XPorter [Automatic extract of data from MIS to LA) Admin eMail Secure network (VPN) Firewall Network Engineer (Corporate ICT)</p>	<p>Upper £7240.64</p> <p>Middle £5569.73</p> <p>Lower (150-250) £3341.84</p> <p>Lower (100-149) £3063.35</p> <p>Lower (1-99) £2784.86</p> <p>Special (100-149) £3063.35</p> <p>Special (1-99) £2784.86</p> <p>Nursery £2784.86</p>	<p>Upper (1000+) £13440</p> <p>Upper (less than 1000) £12075</p> <p>Middle (500+) £8400</p> <p>Middle (less than 500) £8190</p> <p>Lower (250+) £4830</p> <p>Lower (150-250) £4620</p> <p>Lower (100-149) £4200</p> <p>Lower (1-99) £3754</p> <p>Special (100-149) £4200</p> <p>Special (1-99) £3754</p> <p>Nursery £3754</p>	<p>67 to 86%</p> <p>47 to 51%</p> <p>38%</p> <p>37%</p> <p>35%</p> <p>37%</p> <p>35%</p> <p>35%</p>
<p>Property Services</p> <p>Property Support:</p> <p>Core Service (emergency helpline, reactive repair & planned maintenance, statutory maintenance, testing & inspection, Planned Preventative Maintenance, Site Agent training & monthly visits)</p> <p>Optional Services (wide range of additional services, from specific property or premises management issues through to the project management and design of new facilities)</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>	<p>£450 (Lower)</p> <p>£1000 (Middle)</p> <p>£2000 (Upper)</p> <p>Fixed Fee pa</p> <p>% fee basis (between 9% and 12.5%) or</p> <p>Hourly Rate basis (between £40 and £60)</p>	<p>n/a</p> <p>n/a</p>

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<p>The proposed charges for the remaining services are based on 100% take up. The local authority may not be able to provide these services in future unless there is full take up.</p>			
<p><i>Children's Workforce Development</i></p> <p>This service previously provided buyback support for schools as well as providing the Children's Workforce Development (CWD) directory, which signposts to a range of learning opportunities. In 2011/12 the local authority will maintain a minimum statutory service for which no charge will be made.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Integrated Youth Support Service: Connexions Personal Advisers</i></p> <p>Funding for Connexions was removed in 2010/11. From 2011/12 only a minimum statutory service will be available. Charges are therefore inappropriate</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Integrated Youth Support Service: Connexions Special Needs Support</i></p> <p>The Council funds Connexions Special Needs support to special schools, schools needing Section 139A assessments and some additional focus on NEETS. From 2011/12 only a minimum statutory service will be available. Charges are therefore inappropriate</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Integrated Youth Support Service: Youth Workers in Schools</i></p> <p>From 2011/12 only a minimum statutory service will be available. Some youth work will be done in partnership with schools via the early intervention grant. Charges are therefore inappropriate</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Educational Psychology</i></p> <p>Our current service delivery is based around our statutory role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to Statutory Assessment under the 1996 Education Act for pupils with complex SEND through the provision of psychological advice. • Provide advice and support for pupils with statements. • Advise the Local Authority on need and provision. This includes providing expert witness assessment and testimony as part of the SEN and disability tribunal process (SENDIST). <p>However the following non statutory activities can be offered by the EP team at an additional cost:</p>	n/a	<p>Psychologist £478 daily rate or £69 per hour</p> <p>Advisory Teacher £347 daily rate</p> <p>Nursery Nurse £143 daily rate or £25 per hour</p>	n/a

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with staff, parents and young people around specific concerns/ issues; • Classroom observation; • Formal assessment of individual pupil needs; • Staff training on SEN, child mental health/ wellbeing and inclusion ; • Staff support e.g. Solution Circles, Circle of Adults, group and individual supervision; • Group and individual support for young people where there are concerns around their emotional and social development e.g. social skills, emotional intelligence, Circle of Friends etc. • Support for project work, research and evaluation. <p>It is envisaged that these activities would be purchased by academies, individual schools requiring support for pupils who do not fit our core activities and school partnerships.</p>			
<p><i>Ethnic Minority Achievement Support Service</i></p> <p>This is a statutory service working in partnership with schools and minority communities to meet the needs of learners of English as an additional language (EAL) and ethnic minority pupils who are at risk of underachieving.</p> <p>A statutory minimum of activity relating to traveller education will be offered.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Governor Services</i></p> <p>A core programme for governor training will be :</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of :</p> <p>Governors - Strategic Role/Critical Friend Role/Accountability Role</p> <p>Clerks</p> <p>Principals</p> <p>Governor Self-Assessment (like current Health Check but this will need to be revised for Academies)</p> <p>Standards and Understanding Data</p> <p>Employment and HR issues - Academies can alter the contracts of staff</p> <p>Governors' Visits</p> <p>Safeguarding and Child Protection issues</p> <p>Performance Management</p>	<p>Subscription rates based on no. of governors:</p> <p>9-13 £475</p> <p>14-20 £575</p> <p>21+ £750</p> <p>Academies, free & independent schools £850</p>	<p>Subscription rates based on no. of governors:</p> <p>9-13 £525</p> <p>14-20 £635</p> <p>21+ £825</p> <p>Academies, free & independent schools £935</p>	10%
<p><i>Mentoring of Newly Qualified & Interim Deputy Headteachers</i></p> <p>This is not a statutory service and the local authority will not be performing this function.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<p><i>NQTs Primary Pool & Register</i></p> <p>This is not a statutory service and the local authority will not be performing this function.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>SEN & Disability Service</i></p> <p>This service is not provided by CBC. Statutory activities are delivered as part of the Education Psychology team's remit.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Behaviour Support Services</i></p> <p>Behaviour Support has a dual role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statutory obligation to teach pupils excluded from school • A non statutory preventative role to ensure that a wide range of support strategies are available to all schools for pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties to prevent social exclusion. <p>The local authority will maintain a minimum statutory service and charges are therefore inappropriate.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>KS4 Practical Learning Options</i></p> <p>Schools organise this service themselves. CBC would only be involved from a statutory SEN perspective and the cost of this involvement would not be chargeable.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Determining Free School Meals Eligibility</i></p> <p>In April this year, the process for establishing if a child is eligible for a free school meal is moving from the Education Welfare team to Customer Accounts. The Contact Centre will answer the customer contact and process the application. Charges for eligibility checking will be applied.</p>	n/a	£10 per determination, per year	n/a
<p><i>Admissions & Appeals</i></p> <p>This is a statutory service and as such the costs associated with it are not chargeable. The Admissions & Appeals Code of Practice also currently covers academies, so no charges can be applied.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Therapies & Other Health Related Services</i></p> <p>This service is provided by the Primary Care Trust (PCT). If CBC does get involved, it's as a result of statutory SEN provision.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a

Services to Schools Price List 2011/12

Service Description	2010/11 Charge	2011/12 Charge	% Increase
<p><i>Pupil Support</i></p> <p>This refers to the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), the provision of which is currently the subject of review and a formal tender process. Once established however, there is scope to charge Academies for this service.</p>	n/a	tba	tba
<p><i>Education Welfare Service</i></p> <p>The Education Welfare Service (EWS) works in partnership with pupils, schools and parents with the aim of improving school attendance. The EWS is also responsible for issuing and monitoring child employment work permits and performance licenses The Service has a legal responsibility to monitor school attendance and consider court action against parents whose children do not attend school regularly.</p> <p>This is a statutory service and charges are inappropriate.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>School Improvement</i></p> <p>The service includes School Improvement Advisers and national strategy and curriculum support provided by a range of consultants and officers. The service aims to provide appropriate challenge and support to each school to promote school improvement. Such support is set within the understanding that each school has the primary responsibility for improvement and ensuring high educational standards.</p> <p>This is a statutory service and charges are inappropriate.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Visual & Performing Arts</i></p> <p>CBC does not provide this service. If required, schools fund themselves.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Monitoring National Curriculum Assessment</i></p> <p>This service is provided free for Local Authority maintained schools. Academies are responsible for their own costs.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<p><i>Music Service</i></p> <p>The following services can be offered to schools at a cost:</p> <p>Short Term Enrichment Projects; Nursery/Foundation Stage Provision; Curriculum Support; Weekly Ensemble Opportunities; Individual & Group Instrument Lessons.</p>	£40.20 per hour	£67.94 per hour	69%

SCHOOL GOVERNORS FORUM - MEETING HELD 16 FEBRUARY 2011

FEEDBACK – SERVICES TO SCHOOLS PRICE LIST

Listed below is a summary of the issues raised in relation to the Price List of services to be traded with schools. A copy of the Price List together with a list of Frequently Asked Questions based on the feedback at the Governors Forum will be posted on the Governors portal – link below.

<http://www.learning.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Impact on Teaching and Learning

Concerns were expressed regarding the potential for schools to have to balance the price increases of CBC's services with the cost of teaching (which will have an impact on resources for teaching and learning), especially for those schools running a deficit. This will adversely affect the Recovery Plan (St Andrews Lower School). It was also stated that a number of schools will go into a deficit as a result of these price increases.

Service Viability

Although firm assurances were given that 2011/12 prices would remain as published for 2011/12, there was some concern over the viability of this approach given prices were based on current volumes of service delivery. Governors were therefore concerned that services may be withdrawn completely as a result.

Efficiencies & Effectiveness

Governors sought assurance that CBC would continue to provide the same level of quality regarding service provision whilst at the same time seeking further efficiencies regarding the cost of said services. It was Governors opinion that the identification and implementation of further efficiencies throughout the Council should result in price reductions to schools without any adverse impact on quality.

Partnership Working

Governors sought assurance that the Council was exploring thoroughly partnership working with other public service organisations to achieve economies of scale and hence drive down costs (and charges).

Timescale

Significant concerns were expressed regarding the limited notification given to schools about the proposed price increases, which allowed insufficient time for them to benchmark these prices and seek alternative suppliers, if they so wished. There was a reluctant acceptance by most that schools would have to accept buy back this time but will look at alternatives in the future.

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